

Ypsilanti GLEANINGS

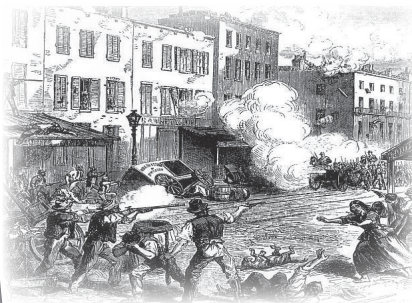
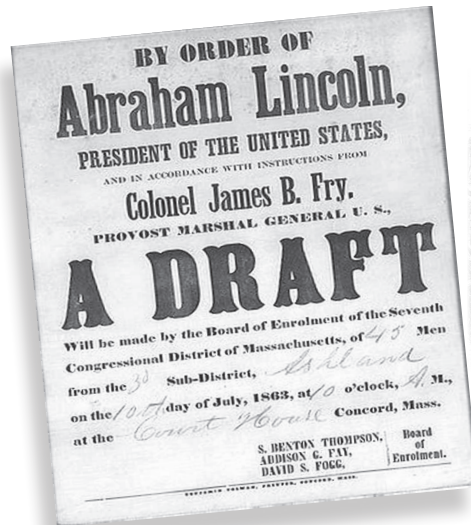
Official publication of the Ypsilanti Historical Society, featuring articles and reminiscences of the people and places in the Ypsilanti area



❄️ **Annual Holiday** ❄️
Open House at the Museum
Sunday, December 8th • 2-5 p.m.

BRAVE & DETERMINED Black Civil War Soldiers from Ypsilanti

BY JANICE ANSCHUETZ



Depiction of the Civil War draft riot in New York City.

Civil War draft notification.

After reading the well researched article of Robert Anschuetz's in the Fall 2024 issue of the *Gleanings* about Ypsilanti's Civil War Camp Mizer, which is better known as the Norris-Thompson Block Barracks, I learned a great deal, but I also had a number of questions. Were the barracks racially integrated? If not, where would a black man, determined to fight for freedom, sign recruitment papers and train for battle? I would like to share with you what I was able to learn so that we can all appreciate the courage and contributions these young black men made to our country.

To begin with, a not well-known fact is that in the Revolutionary War, accounts suggest that up to 20% of the troops enlisted in the Navy were black. Despite this, in 1792 Congress passed a law stating that military service would be restricted to whites. This change meant that there were NO black soldiers in the War of 1812, the Spanish American War, and the numerous campaigns against indigenous people.

All of this would change with the Civil War which began on April 12, 1862, when the Confederates attacked Fort Sumter. Those in government and citizens in the north wrongly predicted that the war would be a brief one. Initially men from all walks of life eagerly left their farms, businesses, colleges, and families to sign up to become part of the Grand Army of the Republic. Harvey C. Colburn, in his well-researched book *"The Story of Ypsilanti,"* describes the climate in Ypsilanti when the war began. *"Ypsilanti's organization of citizen soldiers known as the Ypsilanti Light Guards was one of the first companies in the State to offer itself for Federal service. Within a few days after the firing on Fort Sumter, the town bade a brave though tearful farewell to its boys and the company."* Colburn tells us, *"In the period of the enlistment of volunteers and the drilling of raw recruits, Ypsilanti was the scene of*

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WINTER 2024

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From the PRESIDENT'S DESK

BY BILL NICKELS

During our fall Annual Business meeting, two YHS volunteers were honored for their exceptional effort on behalf of YHS by being recipients of the Gerald Jennings Service Award.

Robert Anschuetz grew up in the historic Swain House on the north-east corner of River and East Forest. During his youth, he listened to family members talk about family history and neighbors talk about growing up in Ypsilanti. He and his brother wrote a book about childhood growing up in Ypsilanti that is in our Archives. When his mom (Janet Anschuetz) wrote articles for the *Gleanings*, she asked Robert and his brother to write companion articles. He was introduced to libraries at a young age and learned to like the adventure of searching for information. All of this resulted in writing 32 articles for our *Gleanings* publication going back to 2013.

From Plymouth, Evan Milan attended and graduated from EMU. Like many who come to Ypsilanti to attend EMU, he found Ypsilanti as the place he wanted to live. He volunteered as a docent in 2019 and urged YHS to write a bicentennial publication highlighting the last fifty years of Ypsilanti history. He joined a four-person committee that successfully had such a book published and wrote one of the chapters in the book. He became the

first Chair of the City of Ypsilanti's Bicentennial Commission. Appointment to the Museum Advisory Board led to him becoming the Board's chair. His leadership has produced new displays and programs for the museum. He was appointed as a member of the Board of Trustees earlier this year.

The Gerald Jennings Service Award was established in 2012 to honor Jerry for his exceptional service and future volunteers with similar exceptional service. There have been 27 recipients of the award since then. Missing from this list are the many volunteers who served prior to 2012 and deserved recognition.

I apologize to those who tried to view our fall Annual Business Meeting and were not allowed in. We will continue to work to have our membership meetings viewed remotely. Don't give up on us, we will get our use of technology perfected and continue to send program links using email addresses. If you do not receive such links, send us your email address.

This year, separate museum rooms feature late 19th Century and post-World War II holiday decorations. Make visiting the museum a holiday tradition.

Wishing you and your family a safe and joyous holiday season – go Lions!

2024 Gerald Jennings Service Awards



Evan Milan receiving the Gerald Jennings Service Award from YHS President Bill Nickels.



Robert Anschuetz receiving the Gerald Jennings Service Award from YHS President Bill Nickels.

bustling military activity. The Norris-Thompson Block became known as 'the barracks.' The commons on Congress Street at Park St. were used for training." Colburn continues, *"Here interested crowds gathered to watch the painful evolutions and halting maneuvers of the raw soldiers."*

The Normal College (which is now Eastern Michigan University) was closed during the duration of the war as eager students and staff added their names to enlistees at the Smith and Kinne sundries store on Congress Street in downtown Ypsilanti. The new recruits were regaled by townspeople who held various ceremonies to honor them and they were treated as heroes as they marched the streets of the small village of Ypsilanti. Women in the community brought them homemade treats and gave them towels, shirts and other clothing items and even formed a Ladies Soldier Aid Society to try to meet their every need. Though the barracks were sparsely furnished they provided a welcoming ambiance and the "boys" were given nourishing food. Not so much for the black recruits, as we soon find out.

Well, the war turned out not to be quickly won by either side. Indeed, things were not looking good for the north as Confederate generals won battle after battle and even threatened to conquer the capital city of Washington, D. C. The eager northern army's soldiers soon became war weary as did their families who were left behind to plant and harvest crops, run households and businesses, and were left without sufficient income to deal with the shortages of food and supplies as the war raged on.

The Union Army was running out of volunteers, so the first remedy that the

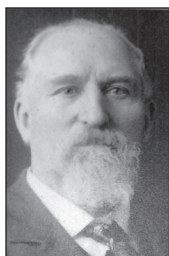
FIRST MICHIGAN COLORED REGIMENT

The First Michigan Colored Regiment was organized at Camp Ward, which originally stood on this location. Formed from August through October, 1863, a year of draft riots and protests against the war, this Negro regiment consisted entirely of volunteers. During training, a regimental band was formed and toured southern Michigan to recruit additional volunteers. Mustered here as the 102nd U.S. Colored Troops, February 17, 1864, the 900-man unit left Detroit March 28, 1864, for service in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. More than 1,400 men served in the regiment during 19 months in the field; ten per cent of this number died in service. The regiment was disbanded in October, 1865, in Detroit.

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First Michigan Colored Regiment
Historical Marker at Camp Ward.

he could be excused by paying \$300 cash but this amount had to be paid each time there was a draft. At that time, \$300 was a very large amount of money for the average American who viewed the draft as a way that rich men could "buy their way out" of fighting. The Congress saw it another way. The war needed not only men to fight, but money to pay for the war. Riots broke out throughout the land with the most famous being in New York City in July, 1863 where government buildings were set on fire, 120 people died and another 300 were injured. Furthermore, the draft laws created a general bad feeling about a war where a rich man could be spared fighting and a poor man risked his life for his country.



Solon Goodell – Canton Township resident who wrote the letter about the draft.

from a Canton Township resident, Solon Goodell, whose parents came to Woodruff's Grove, which later became Ypsilanti, in 1824. This letter was written and first published in a Detroit newspaper in 1890. Solon Goodell writes: *"As there is much being written and said on the way to increase the membership and efficiency of the*

president and Congress tried was a national draft. By proclamation of President Abraham Lincoln, the Militia Act of 1862 allowed for not only a draft of age-eligible and able white men but it allowed the Union Army to utilize African Americans in the fighting. The draft was not popular with many citizens partly because if a man's name was placed in the draft lottery,



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army, either by volunteer or conscription, my mind is carried back to the winter and spring of 1865, when, after the last call of Abraham Lincoln for 600,000 more men, a number of states failed to furnish their quota, and a conscription order was passed by Congress. Among the different States that had not furnished their quota of men was Michigan, and from memory and experience I will relate some of the things that took place in Wayne County. Wayne was short a few hundred men, and March 5, 1865, was designated as a day that all the townships in the county and all the wards in the city of Detroit would be drawn on by the Provost Marshal for its lack of men. Then followed a table giving the number of each ward and township would be drawn upon for. The manner of drawing the names created great excitement and interest."

I well remember the day and the occasion. The Provost Marshal's was in or near the old Biddle House on Jefferson Avenue. The names of all men of military age in a given ward or township were placed in a circular glass; and a man blindfolded and with both arms bare to the shoulders drew a ballot from the globe, handed it to a secretary, who read in a loud voice the name drawn.

The township of Canton, in which I have had the honor of living for more than fifty years, had to furnish thirty-six men and thirty-six names of citizens of that township were drawn from the wheel of fortune. My name was one. Among those drawn I recall the names of a few - Robert McKinstry, John Artley, Lee Lyonn, Seymour Howard, Oreseamus Trumbull and the writer of this article, Solon Goodell, and a scattering of citizens. They left home on urgent business. Some, it was learned afterwards,



Battle flag for the 102nd United States Colored Troops.

Symbol of the 102nd United States Colored Troops.



wandered over into Canada, and it was stated at the time the draft in Wayne County for over 1,000 men did not produce fifty.

Well, I reported to the Provost Marshal and was complimented on my patriotism. My comrade Trumbull, who was rejected on account of disability, also reported. I was directed to report at Fort Wayne at once. The Commandant gave me a welcome I distinctly remember: "Who sent you here?" I replied, "Marshal Flanigan, Detroit." "Oh, you're a conscript, are you? Where are the rest of the boys?" "Oh, they will be along in a day or two." I replied, "The hell they will," said the Commandant. I was assigned to a certain company and was told to make myself comfortable until morning. Well, I got supper and breakfast - black, strong coffee, no cream in it, good bread, but without butter. The next morning I applied for a furlough for a few days to go home and bid farewell to wife and friends but he refused with the remark "No, you're the only conscript that's shown up or likely to and we want you as an exhibit."

I wrote to Marshal Flanigan to intercede for me, telling him I had served my country - drove a four-horse team to pole raisings, marched and carried a banner in the campaign for

Fremont, how I had stood around the country store urging the boys to enlist and save the country, etc. and Flanigan sent a request that I be given a short leave. I entertained a furlough, came home and found my business in such shape it took a long time to get it settled. Soon General Lee surrendered, the war was over and there terminated my military career as a conscript.

So ends Solon Goodell's letter to a Detroit newspaper about his experience with the draft and the difficulty in finding white soldiers to fight in the Civil War. Hopefully this humorous depiction does not detract from the service of other men from our area. Harvey Colburn informs us hundreds of men from the Ypsilanti area served in the Grand Army of the Republic. However, it does illustrate that President Lincoln and the War Department had reason to fear that the war might not be won without soldiers to fight.

Needing more men to fight in the war, in the summer of 1862, Congress repealed the 1792 law which prohibited blacks from serving in the United States military. There was the stipulation that their units would not mix black and white troops and that black soldiers would be led by white commanders. Thus, no black recruits were housed or trained at Camp Mizner in Ypsilanti. Furthermore, instead of the \$13 each month paid to a white soldier, they would be paid only \$10 with \$3 deducted each month for the cost of their uniform. Meanwhile in Detroit, the newspaper "Detroit Tribune and Advertiser" lauded the idea of a colored regiment, and black men, on their own, began to train. In July, 1863 the Governor of Michigan, Austin Blair, was authorized by the Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton, to organize one regiment of infantry composed of "colored men". Black men were instructed to come to Fort Ward in what would later become the Black Bottom area of Detroit. Fort Ward was located at 2700 Clinton Street near the intersection with Jo-

seph Campau and on the grounds of the campus of what is now Duffield School in Detroit. Records show that 895 “colored men” were trained there and at the end of March, 1864 went by train to join fellow black soldiers in Annapolis, Maryland.

By December, 1863, just months after Michigan Governor Blair had authorized recruitment of black soldiers, 250 new black soldiers toured Michigan cities by rail promoting recruitment in the Union Army. This train stopped at the depot on River Street in Ypsilanti across from Camp Mizner where their white counterparts were housed. It was reported that the troops marched down Congress Street, led by an all-black band, and were viewed by an astonished and enthusiastic crowd of citizens. When the train then stopped in nearby Jackson, the Michigan Governor was there to greet them and declared “*This is the first time I ever saw Negro troops, and I am very proud of your general bearing. Take courage, do your duty nobly.*” The crowds that gathered were also quite taken by the new soldiers and cheered them on.

Statistics tell us that 1,673 men served in the 1st Michigan Colored Infantry and that many were escaped slaves and about one third came from their sanctuary in Canada. Not only was the pay different for these brave men, but the conditions at Camp Ward in Detroit were reportedly far inferior than those at Camp Mizner on River Street in Ypsilanti. In one report it was stated that the black soldiers were forced to live in the worst of conditions and one witness even stated “*There is not a barn or pig-sty in the whole city of Detroit that is not better fitted for human habitation than Camp Ward.*” The grounds where Camp Ward once stood are currently being excavated by a small group of historians and archaeologists and the site of the six barracks for soldiers has been located. Like the barracks on River Street in Ypsilanti marking the site of Camp Mizner, Camp Ward also boasts a State



102nd United States Colored Troops volunteer notice.

of Michigan Historical marker honoring the “*Corps d’Afrique*” as the troop of soldiers was identified by a Detroit newspaper of the time.

And what happened in their service to the country? Well, they were first known as the 1st Michigan, between 1863 and 1864 and then from May, 1864 to September, 1865 as the 102nd United States Colored Troops (USCT). They were disbanded on October 17,

1865. There were 1,446 infantry men and they were part of the 9th Army Corps. During the 27th months that they were in service 6 were killed in battle, 5 died of wounds, 129 died of diseases. Battles that they fought in were Baldwin, Florida, Sherman’s March to the Sea including Battle of Honey Hill, Battle of Tulifinny, the Campaign of the Carolinas including Battle of Dingle’s Mill, Skirmish at Spring Hill, Battle of Boykin’s Mill, Salkehatchie, Bradford’s Springs, Singleton’s Plantation and Swift Creek.

This regiment went on to free thousands of slaves from plantations on the South Carolina coast. The moving film *Glory* illustrates the courage and determination of these Black men in helping to win the Civil War. Ypsilanti historian A. P. Marshall, through careful and diligent research has left us with the names of the Colored Michigan Volunteer Infantry soldiers

Colored Michigan Volunteer Infantry soldiers from Ypsilanti

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| John Anderson, 30 | Sylvester Johnson, 18 | Albert Ratliff, 18 |
| Dondridge Bonson, 26 | William Johnson, 44 | Alexander Scott, 30 |
| Wilborn Carter, 16 | Wilbourn Jones, 43 | Alexander Scroggins, 19 |
| Thomas Davis, 44 | William King, 19 | Martin Sterling 20 |
| John Potson (Dotson?), 23 | Henry Laker, 18 | Jesse Stewart, 18 |
| William Mabrose, 32 | Frederick Leake, 25 | George Thomas, 34 |
| John Gay, 34 | Robert E. Lewis, 40 | James Ward, 28 |
| Daniel Goings, 18 | Wilbourn Lewis, 19 | George Washington, 25 |
| John E. Gray, 22 | Frederick Long, 18 | Alexander Watts, 35 |
| Henry Grayson, 19 | Edward Lowe, 29 | William P. Weaver, 27 |
| Benjamin Harper, 20 | George H. Moore, 29 | Edward Wilson, 35 |
| John K. Hart, 30 | Jesse Oliver, 30 | John Wilson, 33 |
| Washington Hawkins, 35 | Jeremiah Patton, 41 | William Wilson, 40 |
| William Hays, 21 | John Porter, 21 | Oliver Winslow, 18 |
| Henry Hopkins, 18 | John Price, 20 | David York, 18 |
| James Hyatt, 18 | Isiah Pritchard, 20 | George York, 15 |

(Author’s note: I tried my best to decipher the faint mimeograph printing of this listing but there may be errors in it.)

from Ypsilanti with the wide range of ages from 15 to 44.

Many of these black soldiers are now buried in Highland Cemetery on River Street in Ypsilanti. If you haven't seen the moving sculpture and memorial by John Nick Pappas adjacent to the monument to the Civil War dead, it is worth the trip. You might want to bring some flowers too as a gesture of thanks to those who volunteered to fight and risk their lives in the cause of freedom from slavery. The monument was dedicated in June, 2022 with about 150 people in attendance including the artist, his family, State Representative Ronnie Peterson, Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist, Congresswoman Debbie Dingell as well as community leaders and members of the public which included some of the descendants of black Civil War soldiers buried at Highland Cemetery. Not all died in battle, but Matt Siegfried, Ypsilanti resident and historian estimates that approximately 40 black men who had fought in the Civil War have found their final resting place at Highland Cemetery and not all of their graves are marked by a headstone. This information inspired State Representative Ronnie Peterson to secure support and funding for this important memorial.

Matt Siegfried contributed his research and provided information about black Civil War casualties and veterans. Ypsilanti resident John Nick Pappas, world-renowned sculptor and retired Eastern Michigan University professor, donated the design and the creation of this impressive monument. His daughter Catherine Pappas told me that the three black men depicted on it do not carry weapons because her father wanted their facial expressions to communicate the sacrifices that they were making for an ideal of freedom for others. These men were not drafted, and did not have to risk their lives to fight in a brutal and bloody war, fought so that black men, women and children could be free from bondage and brutality.

Money was raised for the materials and labor used in creating this memorial. A \$25,000 grant came from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs with \$5,000 in matching funds from Destination Ann Arbor/Ypsi Real. Ronnie Peterson negotiated for a \$30,000 Michigan Enhancement Grant from the Michigan Legislature bringing the total amount to \$60,000. The design and sculpting were donated by the artist, Pappas. Besides financial support, a long list of individuals and organizations added their enthusiasm for his daunting project including the Palm Leaf Club and Buffalo Soldiers of Detroit – both of which have committed to the maintenance of this memorial.

The following is a short biography of one of the former slaves, John Anderson, who left the security of his family in Ypsilanti to volunteer and fight in the Civil War and now rests eternally at Highland Cemetery. His tombstone was purchased by the nearly all white organization of Civil War soldiers in Ypsilanti who fought in the "Grand Old Army". From all accounts of the time, John Anderson was well re-

Black Soldiers of the Civil War monument at Ypsilanti's Highland Cemetery.



John Pappas working on the Black Soldiers of the Civil War monument in his studio in Ypsilanti.

spected and an important part of the Ypsilanti community. After the war John and a handful of the black men from Ypsilanti continued to live in the village. He was born into slavery in Missouri and given the name Edmund by his master. He made a brave escape from slavery and tells about it in this interview from the Ypsilanti Sentinel published in January, 1902. Before I tell you more about him and his life I will share this article with you. It may help us all understand why John Anderson left his home and family, income and security and volunteered to fight in the Union Army in the Civil War

JOHN ANDERSON'S THRILLING ESCAPE



A reporter cornered John Anderson, the ancient colored

man, in Marshal Cremer's office the other day and listened to the thrilling tale of his escape from slavery in the old days "befo' de wa'. Any one who knows John (and who does not know him in Ypsilanti?) can see with the mind's eye his every lineament, his original manner and his smiling, kindly, old black face and kindling eyes. But to get the full force of his story one must be face to face with him for otherwise his inimitable style is lost.

'You see, it was something like this,' said John. 'I lived in Franklin County, Missouri, and my master's name was Stephen Sullivan. This was in 1837 and I was, I suppose, about 19 years old. Bill Moppin was another owner of slaves nearby and my old master, he sold me to Bill, but said nothing to me about it. One day, while I was working in the field, Bill he came out there and wanted

John Anderson - escaped slave and citizen of Ypsilanti who fought in the Civil War and is buried at the Highland Cemetery.

me to go to the house. I asked what was wanted, but Bill said he didn't know. I let my horse go, Bill was on horseback. I asked him if Massa Sullivan had sold me. 'Oh, I guess not.' said Bill. When we got into the yard Bill threw his bridle over a peg in a rack and I jumped off his horse. As I jumped I heard the handcuffs rattle in his saddle bags and then I knew I had done been sold. I started without farther ado on a keen run across the yard and over the fence and across the field into the woods. Bill called to me to stop, but this (man) kept right on, neither looking to the right or left.'

And, as John thought of the way to escape he drew his head down between his shoulders, put his hand over his face and chuckled aloud. 'He shot at me five or six times' said John 'but I didn't stop.' 'Weren't you afraid of being hit?' said the reporter. 'No, he wouldn't shoot to kill \$1,100.' Said John 'And I jest knowed he wouldn't and I flew over the ground the faster.'

The account of his weeks and even months of hiding, traveling, working here and there, always afraid he would be discovered and returned to his master, makes a most fascinating story, but must be omitted from this account for want of space. He was making for Canada, but when he reached Michigan he went no further.

About a year and a half ago John returned to his former home for a visit. As he was walking along the streets of the county seat of his native place, he was accosted by name and on looking around whom should he see coming towards him but Bill Moppin, who purchased him from Sullivan for \$1,100. But who never had his services. Bill was inclined to be a bit ugly at first, said John, but second thought apparently convinced him that the time for any such feeling had long since passed and then they had a good visit. Moppin took John to the court house, hunted up a musty old book, and showed John a record of everything that was learned



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from him after he escaped. Whenever anyone saw him and reported the fact a record was made, but in spite of all efforts they never succeeded in getting John back to slavery. He says the slave owners used to regale their slaves with tales of Yankee cruelty and they were told they would never employ colored men – this to prevent their slaves from running away.

John Anderson's obituary from the December 7, 1907 Ypsilanti Press provides information about his life. It reads: "WAS A SOLDIER AND A SLAVE John Anderson, who had lived nearly a century, died this morning. When he escaped from servitude a large reward was offered for his capture. John Anderson, one of the residents of this city died this morning at his home on Adams Street of old age. He had been a slave and soldier in the late Civil War. But a short while ago he visited the county in Missouri where he had escaped from servitude and there he met one of his old masters who recognized him and conversed on the large reward offered for his capture. He left a wife, Mrs. Lucy Anderson, two sons, Fred and Alfred Anderson, survive him. He had a host of friends and is held in high esteem by all who knew him. He was one of Ypsilanti's oldest and best known colored citizens."

John's actual age was around 75 years old, not 100 as stat-

ed in his obituary. As we have learned he joined the 102nd United States Colored Troops whose claim to history was their participation in the liberation of thousands of enslaved people from plantations along the South Carolina coast. He was married to Lucy (York) Anderson, daughter of an early Ypsilanti black family and together they had five children. John's job was driving wagons and doing various jobs as a laborer. Lucy was a laundress. John knew many people and seemed to be respected by all. He was an active member of numerous local political groups and organizations as well as a member of the African Methodist Church. He was one of the few black members of the Grand Army of the Republic, Ypsilanti branch, and they purchased his headstone at Highland Cemetery on River Street. John and Lucy's son, Alfred Anderson, was one of the first heads of the Ypsilanti NAACP.

So, dear reader, in this article I learned a lot about the history of our nation, the Civil War, slavery and also some of the dedicated and heroic people who have not only fought for our nation but helped to achieve freedom and dignity for all, and I hope that you have too.

(Janice Anschuetz has lived in the historic east side of Ypsilanti for over 50 years. She is an Ypsilanti historian and a regular contributor to the Gleanings.)

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Archives Intern Report

BY CONNOR ASHLEY

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas from the Ypsilanti Historical Society's Rudisill-Fletcher-White Archives as we head into this holiday season.



I wrote in my previous report that this would be my last archives report before my position with the Ypsilanti Historical Society expired. I have good news in that regard. As Eastern Michigan University's Preservation Studies program (formerly the Historic Preservation program) has grown and received significant charitable

giving, I am able to continue on in my position as the graduate student archival intern here at YHS until the end of summer 2025. I look forward to continuing with our newspaper digitization initiative as well as aiding local, national, and global researchers in conducting their Ypsilanti history research.

A point of pride for us is that we are very close to reaching and exceeding our goal of having over 20,000 Ypsilanti-related digitized photographs made available on our online Ypsilanti Historical Society Photo

Archives hosted by the University of Michigan Library. Sincere thanks to Russ Kenyon for his continued volunteering efforts to achieve this goal and to the University of Michigan for hosting our collection free of charge.

As I have reported previously, we are beginning to populate our webpage with the Internet Archive with the fruits of our newspaper digitization labor. A screen capture of one of our digitized newspapers located at @ypsilanti_historical_society on the Internet Archive (archive.org) is included below. This past month, the Internet Archive was under cyberattack and was unavailable for several weeks. Fortunately, none of the contents in our collection or any other collection were removed and it did not stop us from continuing our digitization process. We are now able to upload and continue on. Included on our page is also a collection of digitized Ypsilanti High School yearbooks from 1950 to 1980 courtesy of the Michigan-Ypsilanti Heritage Room at the Ypsilanti District Library on Whitaker Road.

In conclusion I'd like to thank everyone for their generous giving to YHS and for being a welcoming community to me during my tenure. I have fallen in love with Ypsi and her people. This truly is a special place.

A screen capture of one of our digitized newspapers located at @ypsilanti_historical_society on the Internet Archive (archive.org) from *The Ypsilantian*, June 14, 1906.



The 11-room brick Ballard-Fletcher-Foerster house that survived a move from I-94 couldn't be saved from the bulldozer in 1962. The home was originally at 436 S. Grove, then moved to 428 S. Grove.

The Ballard-Fletcher-Foerster House on Grove Road

BY ROBERT ANSCHUETZ

This article reminds us of the importance of our historic districts and the treasure of 19th century houses that fortunately are still plentiful in Ypsilanti. However, in the not-too-distant past, there were homes that were needlessly torn down due to progress. This article is about such a home that put up a good fight before it was finally demolished in the 1960s.

The house that is the subject of this article is the Ballard-Fletcher-Foerster house formerly occupying 436 South Grove Street and later 428 South Grove Street. For over a century, the house stood near the center of Woodruff's Grove, near the modern intersection of I-94 and Grove Road. An *Ypsilanti Press* article from June 5, 1962 describes the property occupied by the house as follows: "*Here the first Ypsilanti pioneers must have walked, here they*

"At the time that the house was torn down in the 1960's, the city and citizens of Ypsilanti realized that they shouldn't just stand by and watch historic homes being torn down over and over again."

formed the nucleus of an area which now has nearly 50,000 people, here have been the changes from untouched forest to busy expressway, overhead bridges, and great industrial plants."

Although not certain, the Ballard-Fletcher-Foerster house was probably initially built by Arden H. Ballard. At the time it was built, the house was part of a large farm. The property upon which the house was built was purchased by Ballard on June 18, 1827. The abstract for the property includes references to Woodruff Village Square and a patent from the United States Government to Ypsilanti's founder, Benjamin Woodruff, dated February 3, 1824. There exists a property record of a \$2,500 mortgage paid on the house by Ballard on March 12, 1836. So, the house was built sometime between the purchase of the

property and the payment of the mortgage, which dates it between 1827 and 1836, with the likely date being closer to 1827 when Ballard purchased the property. The house was made of brick and was composed of two stories which included 11 rooms, and was mostly finished in oak. There was a parlor on the first floor with birds-eye maple paneling, and the house had beautiful gardens. The attic formed essentially a third story and had floorboards of wide planks composed of white wood.

In 1865, Addison Fletcher purchased the house and farm. He and his wife, the former Philinda Seaman, raised several children there. The farm remained in the Fletcher family until it was sold to Ludwig Ziegler (L.Z.) Foerster. L.Z. Foerster was born in Canada in 1836, the son of German immigrants, and came to Ypsilanti in 1870. L.Z. Foerster purchased the Grove Brewery and Bottling Company located at 414 South Grove Street. With the success of the brewery, Foerster purchased the 11-room home from the Fletcher family in 1885 within a

stone's throw from his brewery. You can read more about L.Z. Foerster and the Foerster Brewing Company in the Spring 2018 issue of the *Gleanings*. The extended Foerster family, specifically Albert and Emma Foerster, also occupied a house at 310 S. Grove St., at the Southeast corner of Grove St. and Spring St. Andrew and Sarah Foerster resided at 446 S. Prospect Rd., adjacent to the Woodruff's Grove historical marker at the intersection of Prospect Rd. and Grove St.

In the 1940's the Ballard-Fletcher-Foerster house at 436 S. Grove St. was almost slated for demolition. The Interstate 94 expressway, connecting Detroit to Ypsilanti, was under construction to allow workers quick access to the Willow Run Bomber Plant during World War II. The path of the expressway was designed to go directly through the house. The owners of the house at that time, Deloss and Jessie Lamkin, couldn't see their historic home plowed over, so they had it moved a short distance from 436 S. Grove St. to 428 S. Grove St. The move on rollers was a major undertak-



The Foerster family in 1915 posing for the 50th anniversary of Rosina and Ludwig Z. Foerster (seated) at the time they owned the Foerster home. Standing from left to right are their children Anna Foerster Schaner, Louis Konrad Foerster, Jacob Loeffler Foerster, Lillian Foerster Root, and Albert Foerster. Jacob Loeffler Foerster's granddaughter Lois was married to Art Linkletter.

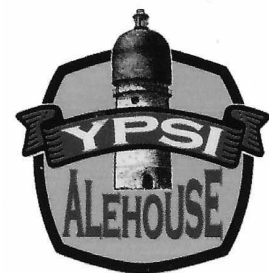
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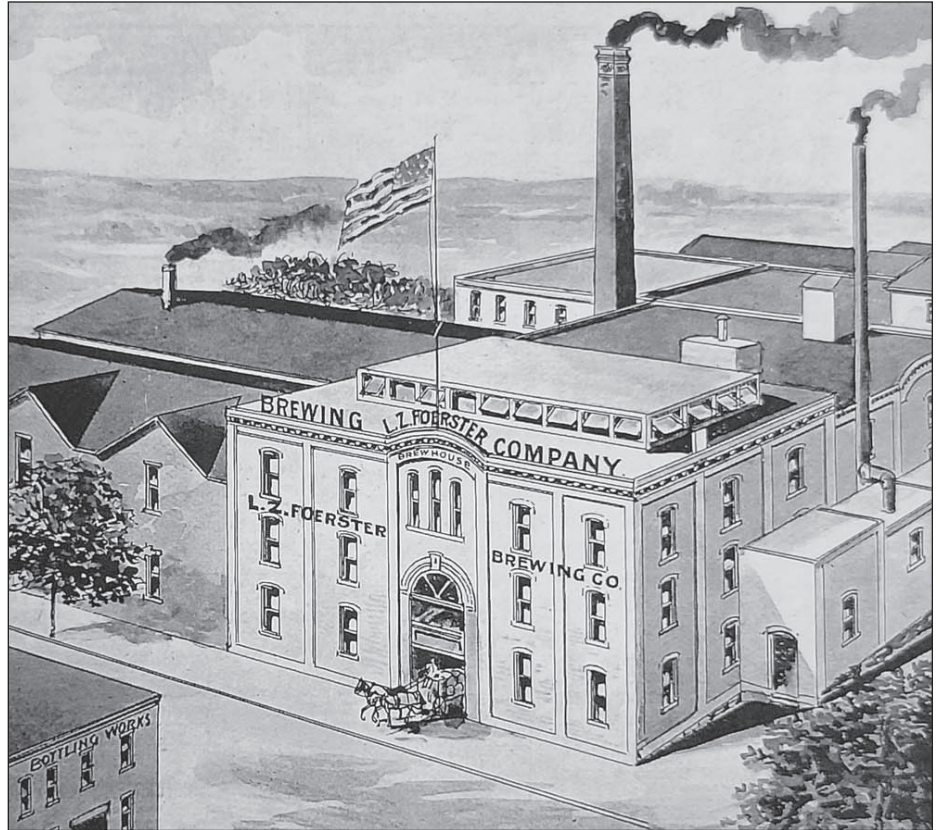
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ing, but the brick home survived the move by advancing a few feet each day.

After the move, for two decades the Ballard-Fletcher-Foerster house overlooked the expressway where the home had stood since the time of construction. The house eventually fell into the hands of Gust Nastos and James Vallie. They also appreciated the historic nature of the building, but in 1962 they were made an offer by the Texaco Company to purchase the property for use as a gas station. They considered donating the house to the city, but they couldn't work out an arrangement to save the historic home. They relinquished the house to Texaco in July of 1962, and the house was subsequently torn down.

At the time that the house was torn down in the 1960's, the city and citizens of Ypsilanti realized that they shouldn't just stand by and watch historic homes being torn down over



L.Z. Foerster Brewing Company located at 414 S. Grove.



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and over again. According to the Ypsilanti Press article from 1962, *"The Board of Commerce has taken the first step toward saving these buildings and possibly moving them to a central location for restoration as an attractive feature for the city. For the first time a committee has been set up to study the historic potentials of Yp-*



Lois (Foerster) Linkletter and Art Linkletter. Lois Linkletter's father was born in Ypsilanti.

silanti with relation to making it a tourist and convention city. Peter B. Fletcher, of the Ypsilanti Credit Bureau, will chairman the group." It's ironic that Peter B. Fletcher's father, Foster Fletcher, then president of the Ypsilanti Historical Society, was the great-grandson of the former owner of the house, Addison Fletcher.

The many families and occupants of the Ballard-Fletcher-Foerster house had connections to fame and fortune outside of Ypsilanti. One of Addison Fletcher's relatives, Grace Fletcher, was the wife of Daniel Webster. Daniel Webster was a member of both the United States House and Senate, and also served two times as Secretary of State under Millard Fillmore, William Henry Harrison, and John Tyler. In addition, Kate Gwendoline Fletcher, a daughter of Addison Fletcher Jr., was married to Douglas Cornell, who was the uncle of Katharine Cornell, an early and mid-1900's Broadway and Hollywood actress. The Cornells were also distantly related to Ezra Cornell, the founder of Cornell University. Douglas and Kate (Fletcher) Cornell's son, Samuel Douglas Cornell, was a noted physicist, and former executive officer of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington D.C.

The Foerster family had their own

connection to fame. In addition to being famous throughout Michigan for beer, L.Z. Foerster's great-granddaughter, Lois Foerster, married film and television star Art Linkletter. Lois Foerster was born in San Diego, California, the daughter of Charles Jacob and Marguerite (Preston) Foerster. Charles Foerster was born in 1893 in Ypsilanti, the son of Jacob L. and Hettie May (Kimmel) Foerster. Jacob L. Foerster was the son of L.Z. and Augusta (Loefler) Foerster. Art and Lois (Foerster) Linkletter had one of the longest Hollywood marriages of all-time, lasting 75 years until his death.

Let's hope that the houses in our historic districts continue to be maintained and preserved and a tragic tear-down of such an historic house such as this won't happen again. What would Art Linkletter say about demolishing his great-grandfather in-law's house to make room for an expressway and later a gas station? He probably would say something like *"People do the darndest things."*

(Robert Anschuetz grew up in Ypsilanti in the historic Swaine house at the corner of Forest Ave. and River St. He is a member of the 2023-2024 cohort of the YpsiWrites organization and a regular contributor to the Gleanings.)

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The cornerstone for the original Brown Chapel was laid in 1901.

Brown Chapel: Beacon of History / Center of Empowerment - Brown Chapel in the 20th Century

BY EVAN MILAN (*Consultants: Pastor Donald Phillips, Carolyn James, and Valerie Eaglin*)

The construction of Brown Chapel, at the corner of Buffalo and Adams, is a testament to the strong community that built it. In the first four years of the 20th Century, under the keen leadership of Reverend Lewis Pettiford, every aspect of construction was undertaken by members of the Ypsilanti AME Church. The land that the building sits on was donated by Members Isa and Jesse Stewart. George Kersey designed the structure that now stands at 401 S. Adams and, with the help of his brothers, directed the construction of the building. Wealtha (Wealthy) Sherman collected contributions for the building of the chapel, ferrying construction materials to the site in a wheelbarrow.

Brown Chapel was a project the community lovingly gave to; but, the project still came with its share of expenses. At its completion, the new chapel was erected at the cost of \$6,000 (Roughly \$213,000.00 adjusted for inflation). Subsequent to the first services held on August 28, 1904, a number of committees were assembled to assist in the business of the vastly growing congregation. On October 30, 1904 the Trustee Helpers was formed to aid in the secular business of

the church, and to raise funds to pay the costs of building the new chapel. Emma Anderson served as president with a roster that included Mary Kersey, Mary McCoy, Alice Anderson, Nellie Green, Mary Jones, Amanda Moore, Temperance Woods, Rebbecca Ward, and Elizabeth Martin. It fell to the Trustee Helpers to raise funds for the chandeliers, the pews, and, among other obligations, undertook the payments of insurance for the building.

By the Summer of 1913, the expenses incurred during the erection of the new church were paid in full. \$12,000 were pledged during an event in June of 1912; once collected, all debts were paid with a small surplus left in reserve. The Trustee Helpers continued to serve the church as administrators of secular business until, eventually, they reformed as an independent organization to broaden their community service goals. The Trustee Helpers became the Palm Leaf Club in 1934, and continues to serve the community today.

The AME church, and the community it served, continued to evolve over the following 40 years. 1904 saw Rev. Pet-

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Kids (3 to 17) - \$10 • Kids (Under 3) – Free

tiford transferred to a new congregation with Rev. J. E. Lyons taking on the leadership of the Ypsilanti AME Church. In 1913, the congregation hosted the Michigan Annual Conference. In 1918, under Rev. S. S. Harris, a furnace was installed, and, in 1946, an organ was purchased at the cost of \$400. The organ was one of three built by the manufacturer, and had previously been owned by a Detroit radio station.

The years after the Second World War saw an awakening in the United States that had been building from before the very founding of the Nation. Equality amongst the people of the United States has been a dubious promise. The disparities that many Americans had been subjected to were never made more apparent, than when millions of American men and women served to defend an egalitarian way of life that many, themselves, were never afforded. While the pursuit of civil rights flashed into heated conflict in cities like Detroit, Michigan and Mobile, Alabama in 1943, Reverend Thomas H. Smith devised another way to fight discrimination. Ypsilanti has been no stranger to the practices of segregation; redlining defined neighborhoods by skin color and, though businesses may not have explicitly stated who they would and would not serve, attitudes spoke above the silence.

Reverend Smith came to serve at Brown Chapel in 1949 and remained through 1957. While Smith saw the disparity in Ypsilanti, and across the nation, he devised a way to pursue equality through love and understanding. Rev. Smith founded the Brotherhood program, and held the inaugural Brotherhood Banquet on February 12, 1953. The Brotherhood Banquet was devised as an interfaith gathering, to remind us that we are all one family. Guidelines of the banquet were set down so that speakers would rotate among the three major faiths (Christianity, Judaism, and Islam) and between racial background. The



The ground was broken for the building of the new Brown Chapel in 1997.

Banquet of 1953 was held at Brown Chapel with Rev. Joseph L. Roberts, Minister of Bethel AME Church of Detroit, serving as speaker. Rev. Smith asserted that any proceeds from the Brotherhood Banquet were not to be used to profit the church.

The Brotherhood Banquet has remained a tradition for Brown Chapel, and the surrounding community, for over 71 years. As the years have passed, Rev. Smith's vision has grown to a size greater than the facilities available at Brown Chapel. Subsequent hosts of the Banquet have been Ypsi High School, Eastern Michigan University's McKenny Union, and most recently the Eastern Michigan University Student Center Grand Ballroom. The most recent Banquet was held on April 20, 2024 with Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson serving as speaker. The theme of the 71st Brotherhood Banquet was *Chosen to Protect and Strengthen our Democracy*.

The latter half of the 20th century continued to bring enhancements to the Church. In 1953, The AME Church in Ypsilanti was celebrating a legacy of well over 100 years of continued community enrichment; howev-

er, it was not until this year that the Church officially took on the name *Brown Chapel*. Bishop Morris Brown, namesake of Brown Chapel, was the second Bishop of the greater AME Church and the presiding prelate at the time of the founding of the AME Church in Ypsilanti in the early 19th century. 1970 saw the arrival of Rev. George A. Powell. It was Rev. Powell's guidance that precipitated the purchase of a parcel of land in the South West section of the city for continued growth of the AME Church. Additionally, with the help of Rev. William Austin, the church's Youth activities were strengthened. In 1983, Rev. Robert D. Hearn (1982-1991) laid the foundation for the Feeding the Hungry program, as well as the Church's clothes closet.

As it had been at the end of the 19th century, the last decade of the 20th century found Brown Chapel achieving new heights in the community and a need to expand. Like Reverend Lewis Pettiford, nearly 100 years before, Reverend Jerry Hatter came to lead Brown Chapel with a keen sense of leadership that would propel the congregation into a new century on sure footing. Rev. Hatter began his tenure in leadership in 1991, at a

time when Church membership was exceeding 350 persons. The Church at Adams and Buffalo, by that time a landmark structure in the community, was beginning to exhibit signs of its limitations. Though much beloved, and having harbored nearly 100 years of fellowship, the community-built church could comfortably hold only 200 persons. With few meeting rooms available within the building, the many groups of the Church found it difficult to effectively conduct their business without disrupting one another; the pursuit for a new church began.

Due to the foresight of Rev. George A. Powell, there was room for Brown Chapel to grow within the City of Ypsilanti. It was on the Parcel of land, purchased in 1970, that ground was broken on August 3, 1997 for a new and modern church. The chapel that would rise up at 1043 W. Michigan Ave. was envisioned to comfortably accommodate 700 persons, with an emphasis on accessibility. The cornerstone of the modern Brown Chapel was laid on November 28, 1999. At the time, Robert Thomas Jr. served as Bishop of the 4th Episcopal District and, in addition to Pastor Hatter, the Church Trustees included Brother Willie C. James Pro Tem., Brothers Theodore Drake, James Moore, James Ratliff, Larry Sommerville, Garvin Williams, and Sisters Mary A. Taylor, Mary K. Therman, and Janice White.

Today, Brown Chapel shows no signs of wear, with its nearly 200-year age. Jerry Hatter stands as the longest serving Pastor, concluding his tenure in 2020. In August of the same year, Pastor Donald L. Phillips and Pastor Teleah Phillips were assigned to Brown Chapel by Bishop John Franklin. Brown Chapel continues to be a beacon of strength, empowerment, and, above all else, community. The Good Samaritan Program serves over 200 persons a hot meal every Friday. In a 2002 Ann Arbor News article, Katherine Lowrie reported that Shirley and Willor Brown, and their team of volunteers, sent every family who came for a meal home with groceries to get them through the week and clothes when available.

Brown Chapel is an indispensable piece of Ypsilanti. Like the city it has grown with, the congregation came from humble roots. Growing from the modest services held in the homes of Flora Thompson and Syllas Jones, into a community-built center of fellowship two times over, Brown Chapel reaches far beyond the role of a church. Brown Chapel serves the needs of an outsized community; there is no terminus in sight to this community's crusade in pursuit of human betterment.

(Evan Milan is the Chair of the YHS Museum Advisory Board and serves as the Deputy City Clerk of the City of Northville.)

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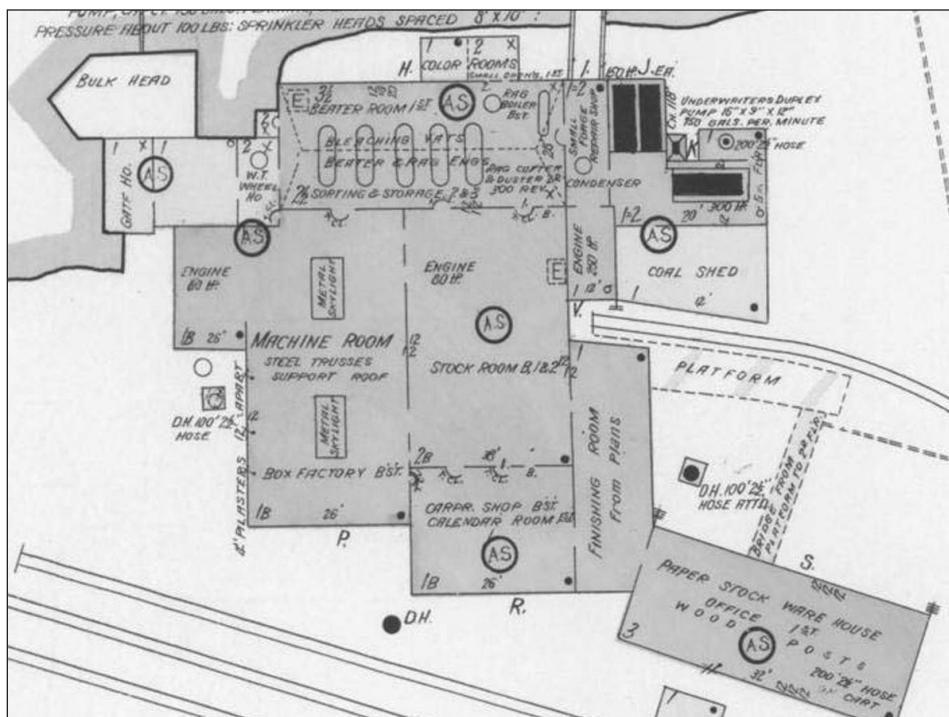
Mystery Surrounds Death of Dan Corey

BY JAMES MANN

On the morning of Tuesday, December 31, 1907, at about 7:15 am., workmen were clearing anchor ice from the racks of the race at the Peninsula Paper mill, when one, J. B. Prior, discovered the body of a man in the race. The race, also called a flume, was an opening in the dam to allow water to flow from one side of the dam to the other. The race was directly under the wheelhouse, where the amount of water flowing through the race was controlled. The body appeared to be about 50 years old.

"The man was about 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighed about 135 pounds. He had brown hair and a sandy mustache and was dressed in a cheap suit with dark blue overcoat of kersey cloth, blouse and overalls and felt shoes. He had some papers in his pockets and gave rise to the theory that he may be Daniel Corey of Chelsea, who has been putting in a drain in this vicinity," reported *The Ann Arbor News Argus*. *"There was a deep cut in the middle of his forehead, which may have been caused by a fall or a sharp weapon, probably the former,"* noted the account. *"The face was badly bruised."* When found the pockets of the coat were turned inside out, his watch chain was broken, and the watch was missing.

The body was removed to the morgue at Mack & Mack where it was identified as that of Dan Corey. He had been in Ypsilanti a few days before, and was said to have been drinking freely and seemed to have a considerable amount of money. A postmortem was carried out on the body by Dr. R. A. Clifford, who said *"the condition of the lungs indicated he was unconscious or*



Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of the Peninsula Paper mill from 1909. The Wheelhouse under which the body of Dan Corey was found is in the upper left corner of the image. (Courtesy of the Library of Congress)

dead before hitting the water."

The wheelhouse under which the body was found had trap doors, each about three feet wide, and one had been left open on the night in question. The door to the wheelhouse was not locked.

Corey may have stopped in to seek shelter from one of several storms during the night. In the darkness, it was suggested, he might have fallen through the trap door, hitting his head against the rack. Then again, he might have been murdered, and his body dropped down into the water below. Police learned that Corey was in the habit of carrying \$100 in cash in his vest pocket. This money was missing when the body was found.

Corey was in Ypsilanti on Monday with a stranger, and the two had drinks together at Hixson's restaurant at about 4:30 pm. He paid for supper for both, taking from his pocket a \$20 dollar bill, displaying several other bills at the time.

"This stranger is only vaguely remembered by the attendants in the restaurant," reported *The Ypsilanti Daily Press* of January 2, 1908. *"Their recollection of him is that he was a rough looking fellow, about 35 years*

old, and wore a derby hat and an overcoat. He was smooth shaven, they say."

The next day it was announced that Corey's watch, which was missing from the body, was found. Corey had sold the watch for 50 cents, so he could buy whiskey. He promised to buy the watch back, in a few days, for one dollar.

"The man who had the watch cannot be connected with the crime in any way," explained Ypsilanti Chief of Police Gage on January 3, 1908, *"so there's no use giving out his name. He is an honest man and volunteered the information in regard to the watch."*

On the afternoon of Monday, January 6, 1908, Justice Gunn and Sheriff Stark continued the investigation at the Peninsular Paper mill. There they found a black hat similar to the one Corey wore. Inside the band were the initials, "J.D.C."

"A rake dropped in the flume brought up a child's coat, covered with blood. Then they fished out a child's dress, which was bloodier than the coat, and both had evidently been around the murdered man's head. When the body was found a piece of carpet was about one of Corey's legs," reported *The Ypsilanti Daily Press* of Tuesday, January 7, 1908.

"The carpet was of a kind used in the

mill," continued the account. "The garments found in the flume were taken from a pile in the storeroom, where they are kept for wiping the machinery." The account further noted that entrance to the stockroom and the wheel room could only be obtained from the outside.

"William Irvine, employed at the paper mill, works nights in the pulp room. That night he had occasion to go to the stockroom, about 100 yards away for stock. He heard a slight noise like something being dragged along and turned on the lights but could see nothing. While in the elevator he again heard the noise. Later he saw places where something had been dragged"

The inquest into the death of Dan Dorey opened in the office of Justice Gunn on Wednesday, January 8, 1908. At the inquest Dr. R. A. Clifford said Corey did not come to his death by Drowning, pointing out there was no water in his lungs. "The doctor said that the condition of the lungs as found would be possible when a man fell into the river in a comatose condition and died from asphyxiation, but even in that case there would still be signs of drowning. He said that although the blow did not break the skull, it caused an abrasion of the brain. He said the wound could not be self-inflicted," reported *The Ypsilanti Daily Press* of Thursday, January 9, 1908.

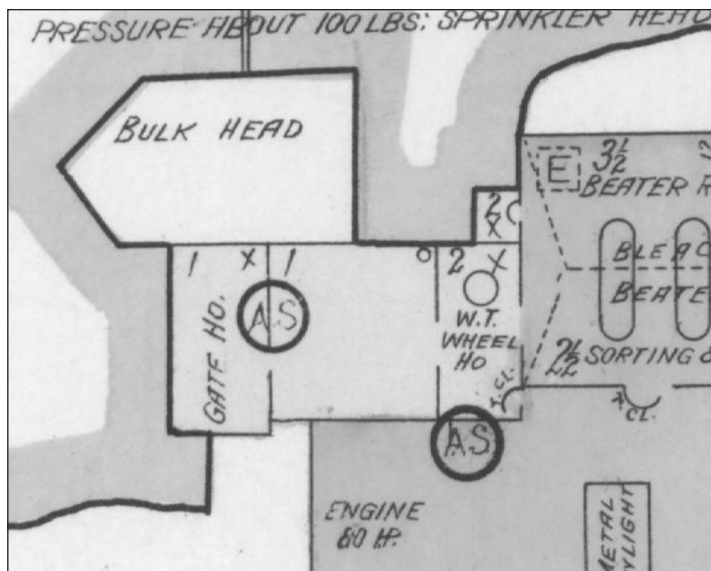


Image of the northwest corner of the Peninsula Paper Mill showing the location of the wheelhouse over rack where the body of Dan Corey was found. This is from the 1909 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. (Courtesy of the Library of Congress)

Albert Gilbert, a teamster from Chelsea said Corey had showed him \$176 on December 22, 1907, and that he intended to buy a team of horses with the money. "As he left the witness stand, he said he might tell more if he wanted to, but on cross examination nothing new developed, with the exception that Corey had some trouble at home and wanted to stay at Gilbert's Tuesday night before Christmas. He was given the permission but did not go back to his home and they never saw him again," noted the account.

John Connors and Frank Miller said they saw Corey in Hixson's lunchroom with a stranger the night before the body was found but could not positively identify the body as the same man. Walter Sousa, the chef at Hixson's, said he doubted the man

he saw was Corey, as the man at the restaurant had recently been shaved and his mustache trimmed. The body appeared to have three days growth of beard, and his mustache had not been trimmed.

"Frank J. Miller testified that while in Hixson's lunch room he saw two men, one of whom resembled Corey, eating lunch. When Corey paid for it, he gave a \$20 bill, and he, Miller, saw at least three more bills of the same denomination, besides tens, fives, twos and ones. When Corey's body was found the next morning his left

trousers' pocket was turned inside out and no money was found on his person."

Edwin Corey, the son of Dan Corey, said his father was in the habit of holding on to money for a particular purpose and not to touch that money until the amount necessary was secured. Another witness called to the stand was Daniel Gough who lived near the mill. He said: "I was reading Friday night, when Mrs. Newton, where I live, 20 rods west of the paper mill, says to me: 'What's all that hollern about?' Say I to her, real joken like: 'It's only your old cat out in the back yard.' Says she to me: 'No, it ain't, cause my cats in the house.' Then, say I to her: 'It's your old dog then.' I stood at the door when I heard the last of the hollern, and says she to me: 'Someone is hurt over at the mill.'"



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Gough stood by the door to listen and watched to see if a rig would come to take an injured man into town, he heard nothing more and as it was rainy he went back into the house and gave no further thought to the subject. *"The cries,"* he said, *"were heart rendern."* The inquest adjourned.

The inquest reconvened on Saturday. *"Oscar Lawrence, a local horse trader, testified that he met Corey early Thursday evening Dec. 28, in the Occidental, and bought him a glass of beer,"* reported *The Ypsilanti Daily Press* of January 11, 1908. *"He claimed that this was the first time he had seen Corey".* Lawrence said: *"Corey was 'hanging around,' and as he didn't seem to be drinking and as he (Lawrence) was treating, he asked Corey to have something. He says Corey went out, but he met him again between 10 and 11 o'clock in Clark's saloon. He bought him another drink, he says, and adds that Corey wanted him to go to work with his team on a drain Monday, offering him \$3.50 a day."*

"Lawrence said he and Corey left the saloon about the same time and he left Corey standing on the sidewalk. He said Corey was pretty well intoxicated." Another witness, Robert Hill, said *"I overheard the conversation between Corey and Lawrence, and corroborated most of what Lawrence said."* Hill said *"I rode home with Lawrence, and they left Corey standing on the sidewalk."* The saloon keeper, J. W. Clark told the inquest: *"Lawrence, Hill and Corey left my place about the same time—closing time. Corey asked Lawrence for a ride and Lawrence said: All right."* Lawrence lived at 706 Railroad Street, not far from the Peninsular Paper Mill. Dr. E. A. Clark, who had performed an autopsy on the disinterred remains of Corey testified for over an hour. He was asked to explain in straightforward English what, in his opinion, was the cause of Corey's death. *"He died from asphyxia,"* answered Dr. Clark. *"What does that mean - the man*

stopped breathing." At this the room was filled with laughter.

That afternoon the jury brought in the following verdict: *"That Daniel Corey came to his death between 10 a. m. Friday, December 27, and Tuesday, December 31, by being foully dealt with and rendered unconscious by a blow on the head and was afterward thrown into the flume of the Peninsula Paper Mills, just outside Ypsilanti City, by some person or persons unknown to this jury."* This brought the investigation of the case to a close, at least for a time.

Nothing more was heard of the case until August of 1911, when a man named Henry Miller went to say good-bye to his wife and children. He told his wife, from whom he had recently been divorced, that she would likely never see him again. Miller told his ex-wife he had been friendly with Mabel Lawrence, the wife of Oscar Lawrence, who Miller said, threatened to kill him, just as soon as he, Lawrence was released from prison. The year before in August of 1910, Lawrence was charged with the theft of \$1,025 and was sentenced to one to five years in prison. Not all of the stolen money was recovered. Miller, in July of 1910, told officers where they could find the missing money, in the steps of the stairs to the basement of Lawrence's father's house. How Miller, who had been a friend of Lawrence, came to know this is not known. Miller then told his ex-wife that Mabel Lawrence had told him it was Oscar Lawrence and his brother-in-law, Grant Klein, who had murdered Dan Corey. He added that she was not to tell this to Ypsilanti Chief of Police Gage until after he left Ypsilanti. Mrs. Miller chose not to wait, but informed Chief Gage soon after and Miller was brought in for questioning. Before questioning began, Miller had to pay his ex-wife \$50 to help take care of their children.

"When the murdered man was discovered," noted *The Ypsilantian* of August 10, 1911, *"his head was*

wrapped up in a little dress, such as a child of five might have worn. This dress was recognized by a lady belonging to a charitable organization in this city. This lady however refused to swear that the dress was the very one which she had given Mrs. Kline and therefore, although the evidence was extremely damaging, Kline and Lawrence were not held for the murder. Another fact which had been suspicious was that the murdered man was last seen in Oscar Lawrence's rig going towards Kline's house. Also, whereas before this occurrence, the Kline's family had to be helped by charity, after the date of the murder they appeared to have plenty of money. However, the evidence was not considered sufficiently binding to convict the man and they were not held."

When Mable Miller next visited Oscar Lawrence at Jackson Prison, she informed him of what Miller had said. He told his wife to send the county prosecuting attorney to see him at the prison. George Burke, the prosecuting attorney for Washtenaw County, visited Lawrence at the prison soon after. Lawrence told Burke that it was Miller who had set fire to the barn of Henry Plat and the barns of Arthur Geraghty in 1909. According to Lawrence, Miller had told him Geraghty paid him to burn the barns, and that he had used kerosene which he had carried in a jug. Lawrence told Burke where the jug was hidden. When uncovered, just where Lawrence said it was, it smelled of kerosene.

Now it was Miller who was placed under arrest for the crime of arson. He was found guilty and sentenced to two to fifteen years, with recommendation for two. The fate of Oscar Lawrence is unknown, as records state only that he *"died before 1918."* The murder of Dan Corey remains unsolved.

(James Mann is a local historian, a volunteer in the YHS Archives, and a contributor to the Gleanings.)

Museum Advisory Board Report

BY EVAN MILAN, CHAIR

We find ourselves at the end of another year; this is a good time to reflect on the year we leave behind and to consider the year that lies ahead.

In 2024 we began the year on sure footing after an outstanding Christmas season at the museum. In January, we, along with our fellow Metro Detroiters, looked on as the Lions appeared to be headed to Superbowl LVIII. At the Museum, we found a way to celebrate our local football team with recollections of a period when the Detroit Lions called Ypsilanti its second home. And, in the Spring, the 200-year history of Ypsilanti's Brown Chapel was brought to the forefront.

The Museum also experienced a loss in 2024. Tim Sabo served on the Board of Advisors beginning in 2021. Tim had a strong sense of duty to Ypsilanti and put so much of his energy into cre-

ating displays that tell the story of our community. Tim fought a short, though tenacious, battle with esophageal cancer; he passed on April 5, 2024.

The Advisory Board has weathered a few changes this year. We have welcomed Nancy Balogh and Chuck Bultman as members, both of whom have taken on the mantle with inspiring zeal. Stephanie Kelly and John Scanlon have taken on an outsized role, serving as our Christmas Committee. The pair are working to produce a yuletide celebration that will rival those we've had in the past.

2025 will bring new developments to the museum; new displays are in the planning phase and events are under consideration. To end this year though, we will celebrate together during our annual Christmas Open House on December 8 from 2 pm-5 pm. All are welcome to the public open house and refreshments will be available.

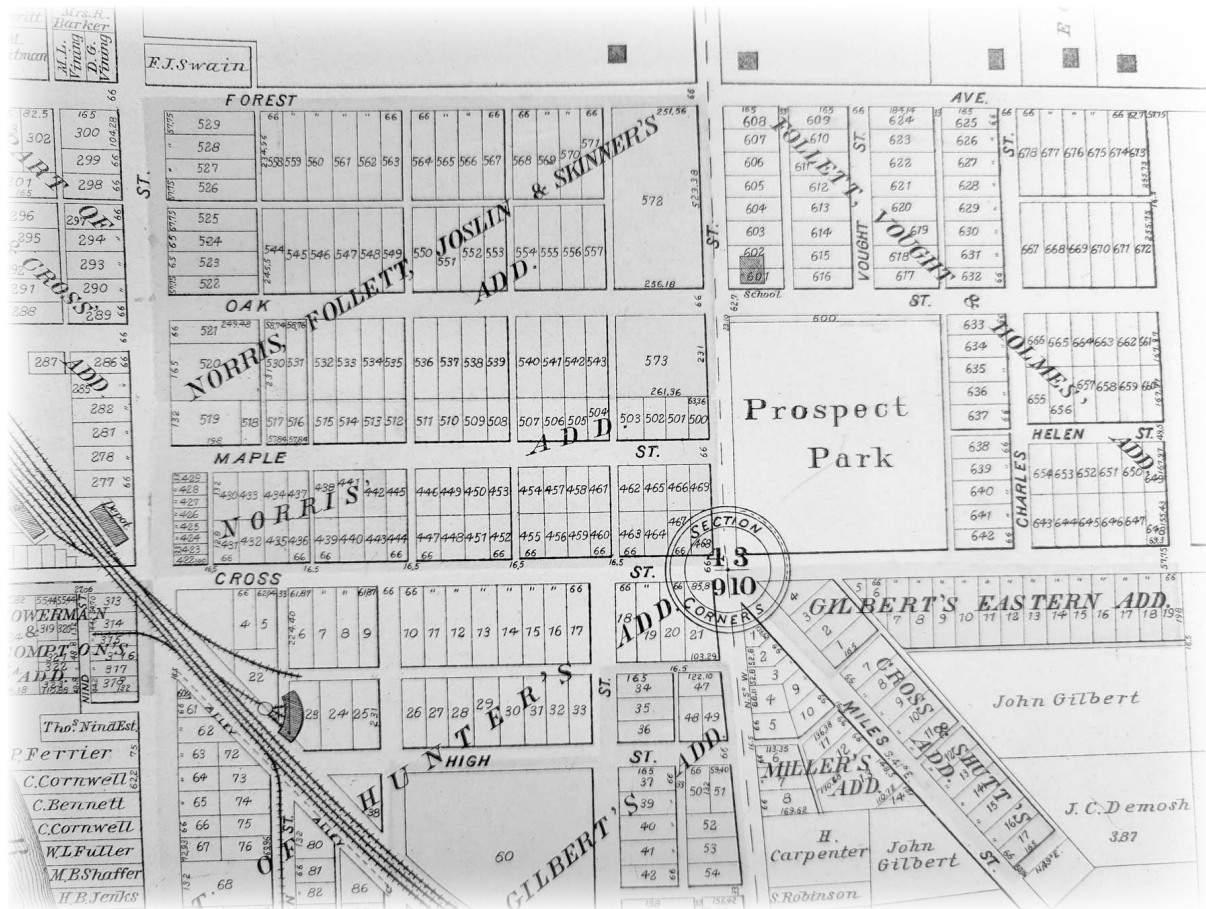


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1800's map showing plat designations.

Origins of Ypsilanti Neighborhoods

BY ROBERT ANSCHUETZ

This article is a follow-up to the article entitled “Origins of Ypsilanti Street Names” published in the Spring 2024 issue of the *Gleanings*. Elizabeth Teaboldt was born June 25, 1878, in Bridgewater Township, the daughter of George and Ella King Rawson. She taught in the Clinton and Ypsilanti school districts for many years. The “History of the Naming of the Streets of Ypsilanti” was Elizabeth’s 1940’s Master’s Thesis while attending Michigan State Normal College. Not only did her thesis provide an amazing catalog about the origins of Ypsilanti street names, but it also provided a chronological history of the plat developments that formed the growing city of Ypsilanti.

Elizabeth’s Ypsilanti Street research was submitted to the Ypsilanti Historical Society’s Archives in September, 1947 as a permanent part of the history of Ypsilanti. Elizabeth’s Master’s Thesis was later published in the Ypsilanti *Gleanings* in three parts. Part I appeared in the issue of December 1980, Part II in the issue of February 1981, and Part III in the issue of April 1981. This article highlights the plat development of the city. Elizabeth Teaboldt lived a long life, passing away in Ann Arbor on August 25, 1972.

Here is a chronological listing of the origin of the plats of Ypsilanti, as researched by Elizabeth Teaboldt.

Original Plat of Village of Ypsilanti - Registered April 21, 1826 in Detroit. Although this plat was registered in 1826, lots were advertised in 1825 in a Detroit newspaper.

Plat west of Huron River - It was bounded on the north by Steward Street, on the east by the Huron River, on the south by an unnamed street, on the west by Hamilton Street. New street names: Steward, Huron, Hamilton, Adams, Washington, Pearl, Congress, Michigan, Woodward.

Plat east of Huron River - There were several unnamed alleys running from north to south and east to west. Most of these later received street names. New street names: River, Mill, Grove, North, South.

Norris and Cross — 3rd Ward Addition - Registered November 6, 1854. The Plat was bounded by an unnamed street on the north, later West Forest, by Huron Street on the east, by Ellis Street on the south, and by Hamilton Street on the west. The streets running from north to south mentioned in the Original Plat were extended northward into this. New street names: Ellis, Cross.

Norris and Cross — 4th Ward Addition - Registered November 10, 1834. The Plat was bounded by what became Mill Road on the north, by North River Street on the

east; what was to become East Cross Street, on the south; with a short unnamed street, later to be Short Oak Street, also on the southern boundary; and Norris and Furnace Streets on the west. New street names: Norris, Furnace, Short Oak.

Clarkesville Addition - Registered February 20, 1838. It was bounded on the north by the Abraham Larzelere property, on the east and south by unplatted land and on the west by Monroe Road. New street names: Monroe Road, East, West, two alleys were also found within the Plat.

Case and Perry Addition - Registered May 8, 1838. It is bounded by a surveyed unnamed street on the north (West Forest), Huron and Washington Streets on the east where they join, Norris and Cross Plat to the south, and Adams Street on the west. New street names: Arcadia.

The Mark Norris Addition - Registered December 14, 1838. It was bounded by unplatted land on the north, by an unnamed but surveyed street on the east (Prospect), an unnamed but surveyed street on the south (Cross) and the Norris Cross addition on the west. New street names: Mill (Maple Street), Maple Ct.

The A. Larzelere Addition - Registered December 21, 1838. This Plat lay along the east side of South Huron Street a little north of where Buffalo Street runs to Huron, and included all the platted area around Bell Street, north of Spring Street. It extended south to the Clarksville Addition. New street names: Buffalo, alleys (Bell and Spring Streets).

Ballantine and Morse Addition - This plat lay in a point with a survey line forming the northwestern boundary. Ballard Street the eastern, Ellis Street the southern and Ann Arbor Road the south-western. New street names: Emmett, Ballard and Ann Arbor Road.

Showerman & Compton Addition - It was bounded on the north by Cross Street, on the east by River Street, on

the south and west by unplatted land. New street names: An alley.

Hunter's Addition Part I - It extended to East Cross Street on the north, beyond Grove Street on the east, south of South Street on the south and to the river on the west, with the exception of the eastern half of the Original Plat, which it adjoined on the north, east and south. New street names: Water, an alley.

Hunter's Addition Part II - It was bounded on the north by Hunter's Addition Part I, on the east by unplatted land, on the south by Kopp's Addition, on the west by unplatted land, and the river. New street names: Factory.

The Western Addition - It was bounded on the north by Ann Arbor

Street, now West Forest, on the east by Hamilton, on the south by Ellis, and on the west by Ballard. New street names: two surveyed but unnamed streets, north of and parallel to Cross Street (Florence and Olive).

M. Norris, B. Follett, C. Joslin, and E. M. Skinner Addition - This plat was bounded by a Township Road on the north (now East Forest), by a section line on the east (Cemetery then, Prospect now), by the Mark Norris Addition on the south and River Street on the west. New Street names: Oak.

Ontcheon's Addition - This plat was bounded on the north by a "Publick Road" later a westward extension of Congress, on the east by unplatted land, on the south-east by the Chicago Turnpike and on the west by unplatted land. New street names: Locust, Chicago Turnpike.

The Cross and Bagley Addition - It was bounded by Ellis Street on the north, unplatted land on the east, Congress Street on the south, and extended a short distance beyond Summit on the west. New street names: Normal, Summit.

The H. W. Larzelere Addition - It was bounded on the north by Woodward Street, on the east by Washington, on the south it extended a distance south of what is now Harriet, on the west it extended a short distance west of Hamilton. New street names: Catherine.

Cross and Shutts Addition - This plat runs south-east from the cemetery, now Prospect Park. Shutts' Street appeared to bound it on the north-west, northeast and southeast, and Miles Street, a through street from the cemetery to Chicago Road, lay to the southwest. New Street names: Shutts, Miles.

Stuck's Addition - This plat was bounded on the north by Ellis street, on the east it extended beyond Ballard, on the south by Pearl, and on the west it extended nearly to Normal

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Street. New street names: Stuck.

Jarvis Addition - The land extended north and north-east to the extension of Huron Street northward, east nearly to Adams, south to French Claim 691 (Forest) and west to the present city limits, with the exception of the southwest corner. New street names: Lowell, Ann.

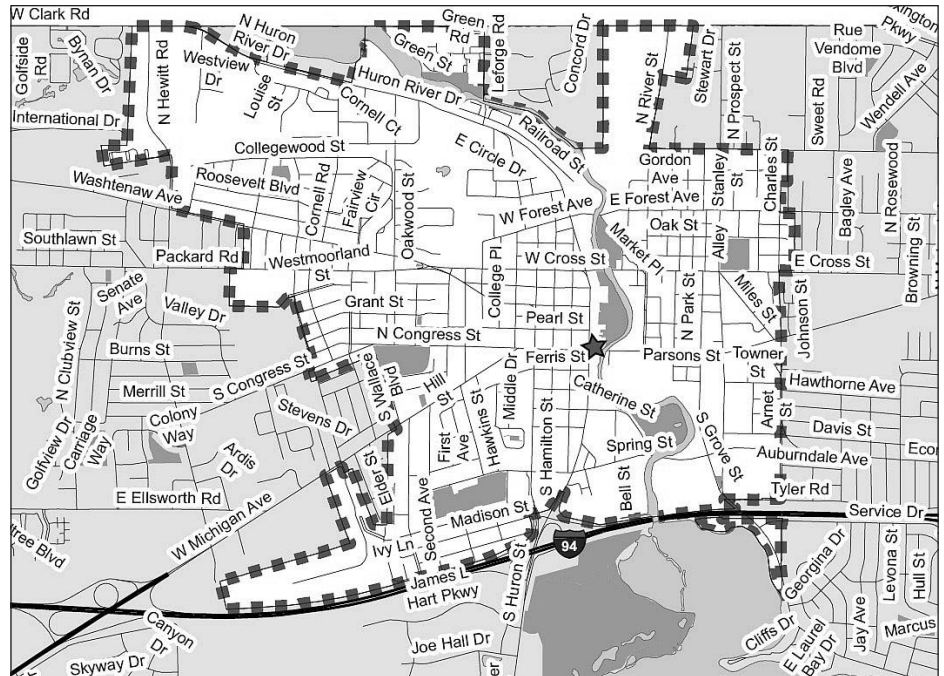
The Davis Addition - The addition was named after Dr. Parmemo Davis who was an alderman from the fifth ward in 1858 and was a competent physician, and interested citizen. The last home that he built was on the site of the present hospital (old Beyer). It was bounded on the north by Chicago Road, on the east by unplatted land, on the south by present Towner Street and on the west by Prospect Street. New street names: Center, a surveyed but unnamed street (Towner).

The Follett Addition - It lay south of Chicago Road, west of North Street-not the North Street in the Original Plat. The curve of the river forms the southern and western boundary. New Street names: Follett, North.

Gilbert's Addition - It was bounded on the north by East Cross Street, on the east by a section line or Prospect Street, on the south by the Michigan Central Railroad tracks, on the west by what was then Mill Street, later Park. New street names: High, the alley next south.

The Follett, Vought and Holmes Addition - It was bounded by Mill Road on the north, the Corporation line on the east, East Cross Street on the south, and Cemetery Street on the west. New street names: Charles, Helen, Cemetery, Mill Road, Vought, an unnamed but surveyed street (Holmes).

Norris Eastern Addition - It was bounded on the north by the Michigan Central Railroad tracks on the east of Prospect, on the south by Congress and on the west by Grove



Current extent of the city of Ypsilanti incorporating all of the plats and re-plats over the past 200 years.

Street. New street names: Prospect Court.

Norris Western Addition - It lay between the Huron River and the Michigan Railroad tracks, southward from what is now Leforge Road to the spot where the railroad spans the river to the south. New street names: a surveyed, unnamed street (Railroad Street).

Gilbert's Eastern Addition - This plat changed the Cross Shutt addition previously mentioned. Shutt Street being taken out and more lots being surveyed.

Jarvis Re-survey - It was bounded on the north-east by the Michigan Central Railroad tracks, on the east by Lowell Street, on the south by St. John Street and on the west by a wide alley or road. New street names: St. John, the alley mentioned.

Howard's Addition (this was the Public square) - It was bounded on the north by a wide alley, on the east by Adams, on the south it extended just south of a narrow alley, and on the west it extended to Hamilton Street. Congress extended through the center from west to east. New

street names: Alley on the north (Pearson Street).

Hawkin's Addition - This property was bounded on the northwest and northeast by unplatted acreage, on the south-east by Harriet Street and on the west by First Avenue. New street names: Frederick, Harriet, First Avenue.

Gilbert Park Addition - It was bounded on the north by an alley, on the east by Park Street, on the south by an alley, on the west by an alley part of the way and River Street the remainder of the distance. New street names: Park, a wide alley on the north, an alley running north from Congress, midway between east and west on the plat.

Kopp's Addition - This plat is bounded by Stewart Street on the northwest, Grove Street on the north east, unplatted land on the south, and Clark Street on the southwest. New Street names: Clark, Stewart.

Morse Addition Part I - This lay west of and parallel to the Bartholomew Addition. New street names: Morse.

Morse's Addition Part II - This plat

is in the southern end of the Morse Addition Part I. New street names: Division.

The R. W. Hemphill Addition, Part I - This adjoined the previously mentioned Hawkin's Addition on the southeast. New street names: Hawkins.

Post's Addition - This plat was bounded on the north by Cross, on the east by Brower, on the southwest by Ann Arbor Road. New street names: Brower.

Scovill and Tuttle Subdivision - It was bounded by the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad on the north-east, Huron Street on the east, extended south of Jarvis Street on the south, and to Lowell Street on the west. New streets names: Jarvis, Jenness.

The Park Ridge Subdivision - It lies in the extreme southern part of the city next to the corporation line, and extends from the corporation line on the west to South Huron on the southeast. It consists of four parallel streets running from southwest to northeast. New street names: Watling Boulevard, Jefferson Avenue, Madison Boulevard, Monroe Avenue, Third, Second, First.

Volkening and Company's Subdivision - It is bounded on the north by Davis Avenue, on the east by Emerick Street, on the south by land probably unplatted at that time, on the west by Prospect Avenue. New street names: Maus Avenue, Davis Avenue, Emerick.

Normal Park Addition - This plat was bounded on the north by Cross, on the east by Westlawn and Elm Gardens Additions, on the south by Congress and South Congress and on the west by Orchard Park and Willow Grove Additions. New street names: Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Elm, Oakwood Avenue, North Congress, South Congress, Sheridan Court, Hiawatha, a surveyed but unnamed boulevard.

College Place Addition - It was bounded on the north by Ellis, on the east by Perrin, on the south by Stuck's Addition and on the west by the Cross and Bagley Addition.

Gray's Subdivision - It was bounded on the north by Forest Avenue, on the east by Holmes Street, on the south by Oak Street and on the west by Charles Street. New street names: Virginia Place.

Young's Subdivision - The plat extended northeast and east a short distance from the southern end of Miles Street to Holmes Street, and was narrow from north to south. New street names: Youngs.

Ainsworth Park Subdivision - This is a large area bounded on the northeast by Michigan Avenue, on the east by Hamilton, on the south by unplatted land, and on the west by Hawkins Street. New street names: Ainsworth Drive, Ainsworth Boulevard, Ainsworth Place.

College Heights Subdivision - This again was a large area. It was bounded on the north by the north corporation

line, on the east by the east corporation line and Michigan State Normal property, on the south by Washtenaw most of the way, and on the west by Virginia Road. New street names: Oxford Road, Cambridge Road, Collegewood Drive, Kingwood Avenue, Roosevelt Boulevard, Ainsworth Lane, Fairview Circle, Hillside Court, Virginia Road, Whittier Road, Washtenaw.

Prospect Garden's Subdivision - This plat was bounded by Towner Street on the north, Emerick on the east, Davis Avenue on the south and an assessor's plat on the west. New street names: Arnet, Mildred, Ford.

The R. L. Owen Subdivision - This plat was bounded on the north by Washtenaw, on the east by the McCormick Subdivision, on the south by Cross and on the west by Normal Heights Subdivision. New street names: Owendale Avenue, Anna Avenue.

The Breakey Subdivision - It was bounded on the north by West Cross Street, on the east by the Gee property, on the south by Westmoorland, and on the west by unplatted land beyond Mansfield and beyond the city limits. New street names: Westmoorland Road, Mansfield.

Prospect Park Subdivision - The land was bounded on the north by Holmes Road, on the east by Prospect, on the south by East Forest, and on the west it extended half-way to River Street. This land was a part of the original farm taken from the government by Joseph Peck, grandfather of Mr. Dwight Peck and Mr. Charles Peck. The property, at least this portion of it, was sold to the Ypsi-Ann Land Company previously mentioned, a member of whom made these explanations. New street names: Dwight, Hemphill Road, Stanley, Gordon Avenue, Holmes Road.

Martin Place Subdivision - This plat extended westward in a narrow parcel of land from Miles to Prospect, and lay almost opposite the Young's plat. New street names: Martin.

The Woods Subdivision - This plat lay directly south-east of Recreation Park. New street names: North Woods Road, West Woods Road, South Woods Road, East Woods Road.

Emerick Heights Subdivision - The plat lay with unplatted land to the north and west, Emerick Street to the east, and Belleville Road on the south. New street names: Ashland, Winona, Belleville-Tyler Road.

Altus Subdivision - This consisted of a very small area lying north and east of the Davis Addition. New street names: Ecorse.

Cherry Court Subdivision - This small plat extended from North River on the west to the Prospect Park Subdivision on the east and is two lots in width. New street names: Cherry Court.

Ainsworth Park No. 1 Subdivision - This plat lies in the

northeastern part of the Ainsworth Park Subdivision No. 2 already located. New street names: Ferris.

O. R. Beal's Subdivision - The part here platted is lot number one of the Woods Subdivision. New street names: Linden Place.

The Franklin Worden Property - This property was bounded by Michigan Avenue on the northwest, Hawkins Street on the east, Frederick Street on the south, and First Avenue on the west. Streets were surveyed and opened up for the public with acceptance by the City Council, December 15, 1930. New street names: Franklin, Worden, Orchard, Hill, Short.

Haig Subdivision - This plat was bounded on the north by Gilbert's Eastern Addition, by unplatted land on the east, by Young's Subdivision on the south, and the Cross and Shutt Addition on the southwest. New street names: Garland Avenue, Vinewood Court.

Ender's Subdivision - This small plat was bounded on the north by Harriet, on the east by the Willson Subdivision, on the south by Park Ridge Subdivision, and on the west by unplatted land. New street names: Perry, Ballard Avenue.

Lindsay Gardens Subdivision - This plat is in the northeastern part of the city. Holmes Road runs on the north of the eastern stretch of the plat. The east Corporation line runs on the eastern edge of this strip. The western strip runs through to North Prospect on the west, and east to the north and south strip just mentioned. New street names: Thomas, Carver.

(Robert Anschuetz grew up in Ypsilanti in the historic Swaine house at the corner of Forest Ave. and River St. He is a member of the 2023-2024 cohort of the YpsiWrites organization and a regular contributor to the Gleanings.)

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Ypsilanti Gets Gas

SUBMITTED BY JAMES MANN

The Story of Ypsilanti's Successful Fight for a Municipal Gas Plant -
Published by *The Daily Ypsilanti Press* on Monday, March 8, 1915

Following is an article on the fight in Ypsilanti for municipal ownership of the gas plant taken from the January issue of the *American City* magazine. *A Successful Fight for a Municipal Gas Plant* (William B. Hatch, President, *The Ypsilanti Press*)

“On November 2, 1914, the city of Ypsilanti, Michigan, purchased the property of the Ypsilanti Gas Company and undertook the municipal ownership and operation of the gas plant. In doing so it closed a long and at times bitter struggle between the gas company and the city. Three years ago, the gas company, realizing that its franchise would expire in two years asked for a renewal of the franchise for a period of thirty years. Up to this time the relations between the company and the city had been fairly satisfactory. The city enjoyed a price for gas which compared favorably with that of neighboring cities; but the request for a new franchise immediately started an agitation for municipal ownership. The advocates of municipal ownership had a strong argument in the fact that Ypsilanti had been one of the early cities to undertake the municipal ownership and operation of its water and street lighting plant. This plant had been a pronounced success, It had supplied water at a low price, had given excellent service and had been a money-making investment for the city.

Within a few months after the discussion was started a straw vote was taken to determine the wishes of the people. This resulted in an overwhelming vote for municipal ownership, the vote being something like four to one in favor. Many of the people thought that the question was now practically settled, and that the city would soon be in possession. Later they discovered that they had a long road to travel and much hard work to do before they could own and operate a gas plant. First of all, they found that the banking interests and nearly all of the legal talent of the city were against them and that in various ways these interests wielded an influence far out of proportion to their numbers. They found too, that there were legal restrictions placed upon the cities of the state which made it very difficult for them to acquire and operate any public utility.

In the beginning of the struggle the people elected a council and mayor pledged to municipal ownership. A special municipal ownership committee was appointed in the council, and this committee began its work by asking the gas company to name a price of which it would sell its property. Representatives of the company refused to name a price and pointed out that the city charter had no authority to acquire or operate a gas plant. This was

true enough and the municipal ownership committee undertook to amend the charter. However, they were stopped by a dilation of the Supreme Court of the state, which refused to allow a city to amend its charter unless it had first adopted a revised charter under the new state constitution adopted a few years before. Following this decision of the court there was an agitation in many of the cities of the state for an amendment to the constitution which would give the cities authority to amend their charters even though they had not yet adopted a revised charter. Such an amendment was submitted to the voters of the state and was carried at the fall elections in 1912. Following this the legislature met and passed a law specifying the manner in which such amendments could be made. The city immediately amended its charter, giving it the right to own and operate a gas plant and specifying the manner in which it might proceed to bring about such ownership. This might be buying an existing plant or buying a new one.

In the meantime, the city had secured Mr. Alton D. Adams, a public utility engineer, to prepare plans, specifications and estimates of cost for the construction of a new gas plant. The gas company now offered to discuss the terms of a sale and named the figure of \$227,000 as the price at which they held the plant. After a long period of haggling with the committee, they reduced this figure to \$165,000. Here they stopped and refused to go further. The council then voted to submit to the people the proposition of building a new plant at a price of \$160,000 in accordance with the specifications of the engineer. Just before this question was to be submitted to the people, the gas company came forward and offered to sell for \$125,000. This proposition was accepted by the city, but before it could be submitted it was found that the city must wait for another decision of the Supreme Court, which was trying the new law under which the city had amended its charter, and under which it claimed authority to own a gas plant.

Before the court was ready with its decision the proposed contract with the gas company had expired by limitation. In asking for a renewal of the contract the gas company brought in a proposition for an additional sum for repairs and replacements and the mayor voted the whole proposition. Again, the council decided to submit the proposition of building a new plant and this was voted on at the spring election. The gas company and their allies by strenuous efforts succeeded in defeating this proposition, but as it lacked only sixty votes of the three-fifths necessary to carry it, the council immediately voted to call a special election and resubmitted the question to the voters. The gas company now offered to sell the property for \$110,000, and this offer was submitted to the voters and ratified.

Again, at this point the city found itself facing a serious difficulty in a decision of the Supreme Court. In deciding on the rights of cities to own and operate public utilities a question had been raised as to the right of the city to bond itself for such a purpose. The court had decided that, according to the statute, while a city could issue bonds against the amount of ten per cent of its assessed valuation, only one-fifth of this could be issued for public utilities, i.e., water, gas and electric plants. The cities were however allowed to issue mortgage bonds secured by the property and revenue of the plant to be acquired but not by the general credit of the city. Inasmuch as the city of Ypsilanti had outstanding public utility bonds amounting to more than two percent of the assessed valuation of the city, it could issue no more general credit bonds for public utility purposes, and it was compelled to mortgage the plant to the full amount of the purchase price. The committee drew a very careful mortgage, pledging in the city not to reduce the price of gas until bondholders were taken care of and they were able to show that with these prices the gas company had been making very large profits.

The banks looked with disfavor on the bonds, the gas company discouraged their sales, and the bonding houses offered no encouragement - one of them being frank enough to say that they opposed municipal ownership because it interfered with the bond business that they were doing with the privately owned public utilities. To add to the discomfiture of the city, the European war broke out just as it was to put its bonds on the market. In spite of this,

however, a committee of business and professional men of the city was organized to push the sale of the bonds, and they pushed so effectively that the whole issue was subscribed and paid in about three weeks' time. The bonds were issued to the amount of \$130,000, so as to pay for the plant and provide a working capital. The denominations were \$1,000, \$500 and \$100. Subscriptions for the bonds ranged in amounts from \$100 to \$10,000. The committee held daily meetings during the time that it was carrying on its selling campaign. All of the committee served without compensation and the entire issue of \$130,000 six per cent bonds was sold without expense of one cent by the city for underwriters of agents' commissions.

The committee had the satisfaction of seeing the bonds oversubscribed by some \$25,000, and on the day set the city was ready with money. The plant was put in the care of the commissioners of public works, who will attempt to show that a city can run a gas plant with local capital and that after the payment of the bonds they can show a profit for the benefit of the city as a whole. Advocates of municipal ownership believe that at the present price for gas the city can in ten or twelve years have a plant clear of debt which will earn a profit of \$15,000 a year on ninety-cent gas; whereas under private ownership it would pay the same price and at the end of twenty or thirty years have nothing to show for it."

(James Mann is a local historian, a volunteer in the YHS Archives, and a regular contributor to the Gleanings.)



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Officer Payne Arrested

BY JAMES MANN

On the evening of Saturday, June 12, 1915, Ypsilanti police officer August Rehill was carrying out traffic duties on the corner of Washington and Michigan Avenue, when former Ypsilanti police officer George Payne began yelling at him. A few days before, it seems, Rehill had arrested Payne for driving his car with his lights out. Now Payne yelled at Rehill, why didn't he arrest others who were driving with their lights out. Rehill, in reply, stated he was doing the police job. As a crowd gathered around them, Rehill decided to place Payne under arrest. Payne, for his part, told Rehill he had not done anything to warrant his arrest. He attempted to demonstrate his conviction with his fists. *"His intentions seemed perfectly good,"* noted *The Daily Ypsilanti Press* of Monday, June 14, 1915, *"but age had deprived Payne's punches of their old time force and he soon found that he was receiving the worst side of the encounter. Rehills blows left two ugly gashes on Payne's forehead, one over each eye."* Once treatment was completed, Payne was released from the doctor's office.

"Once he was dismissed from the doctor's office, he evidently figured that Rehill deserved a return compliment," continued the account, *"and heading down Washington Street he drove his automobile into Rehill who was on traffic duty at the corner of Washington and Michigan Avenue. Rehill managed to save himself by jumping onto the machine. Payne knocked him off and drove on. When Rehill had gathered himself up from the road where Payne had left him, he started to give chase but after sprinting a few yards he saw it was of no use and returned."* A warrant was prepared for the arrest of Payne on complaint of Rehill. Payne was charged with attempting to commit great bodily harm less than the crime of murder. An examination of the case was held before Justice Stadtmiller on June 30, 1915, when Walter Spencer testified as a witness. *"Spencer was unable to say that Payne deliberately drove into Rehill and although he says Rehill fell from the machine after it had struck him, he could not testify that Payne had hit him."* Trial was set for the October term of the court.

The case came to trial on October 7, 1915, at the courthouse in Ann Arbor. The first witness was Office Rehill who said the trouble began on the night of June 12, when Payne tauntingly called out to him several times, while he was on duty at the corner of Washington and Michigan Avenue as the traffic officer. Rehill told the court he had arrested Payne a few days before for driving with the lights of his car not lit.

"According to Rehill on the night of June 12, the trouble started when Payne called out," reported *The Daily Ypsilanti Press* of Thursday, October 7, 1915, *"regarding a passing unlighted auto, 'Why don't you get that fellow?"*

and continued calling that question till he had surrounded himself with a crowd." After a time, Rehill arrested Payne and tried to take him to the lock-up, and Payne resisted. At one point Payne got possession of Rehill's "come-alongs" and tossed them into the street. Rehill admitted he hit Payne three times causing blood to flow freely, but said Payne had hit him first.

"Rehill said it was probably an hour and a half later when Payne came back, this time in his automobile, driving within the speed limit, and that he ran him down with the auto, crying out just as the car struck him 'I've got you now' and mingling these words with profane and vile language. To save himself, Rehill claimed he jumped upon the hood of the auto, clutching the cup to hang on, and was later jostled off onto the pavement. It was when he was struck with the auto driven by Payne that Rehill alleges, he was assaulted, that the car striking him, caused a strained foot and ankle, which laid him up three days, as well as causing an injury to his thumb." Payne testified in his own defense, saying he was

so badly beaten by Rehill he could not recall all that happened between the time he left Dr. Clark's office and the time he reached home. He said he did not resist Rehill, except to insist on walking instead of running, as he said Rehill insisted, he do. *"He admitted having taken Rehill's 'come-along' chains away from him and throwing them into the street because he didn't want them on his wrists, but he denied having attempted to run Rehill down with his automobile when he started for home after he had been beaten by the policeman and his wounds dressed by Dr. Clark."* The jury returned a verdict of guilty after being out for one hour and fifteen minutes. Sentence was deferred until the next term of the court, and Payne had to pay a \$1,000 bond for his appearance.

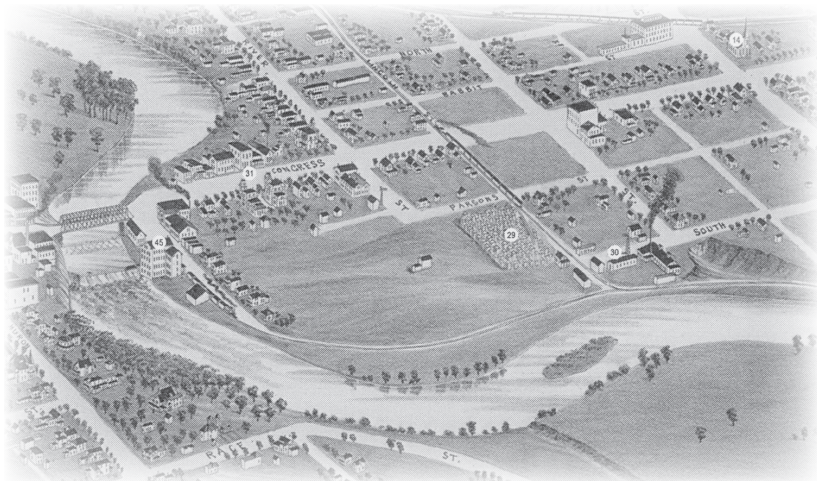
Payne was granted a new trial on Monday, December 13, 1915, on motion of his attorney John P. Kirk. Kirk informed the court he had depositions from two witnesses who said they saw Rehill talking to members of the jury. This occurred, according to Kirk, when the jury was inspecting Payne's car. *"The jurors were sent from the courthouse during the trial,"* noted *The Daily Ypsilanti Press* of Monday, December 13, 1915, *"in the company of officers, the defendant, and the complaining witness, to inspect Payne's car, which was standing in front of the courthouse."* The case against Payne was dismissed at the start of the March term, because Rehill was residing in the northern part of the state and could not be procured as a witness.

(James Mann is a local historian, a volunteer in the YHS Archives, and a regular contributor to the Gleanings.)

Early Morning in Ypsilanti; The Lone Pedestrian; A Pool of Blood; A Hole in the Ice - E. A. P.

SUBMITTED BY JAMES MANN

Published by
The Daily Ypsilanti Press
on February 8, 1915



The trail of blood began near the Westfield & Fall Lumber yard south of Michigan Avenue and lead to the Huron River. (Image is from the 1890 bird's eye view map of Ypsilanti.)

Early in the morning a solitary pedestrian wined his way. He was brisk, imbued with the spirit of the keen frosty morning. He came upon tracks near buildings of the Westfield & Fall Lumber company and on the ground whereon he placed his foot lay a pool of blood, frozen and ghastly, suggestive in the dim light of the early morning of some diabolical preparation, some foul deed of a foul hand and the poisonous fruit of a fouler mind. The lone man shrank from the sight with a shudder of terror and looked about him. What, he thought, what, if the cold, blue steel of the knife of human destruction were at that moment being poised for another deadly strike! He was alone! Would not the man, or Fiend of the Lust of Blood, cut his heart from his body as he had cut the heart of his lockless predecessor in the early morning! He glanced quickly about, but no one could be seen. As far as the eye could reach all was calm in peaceful slumber, so dark before the dawn.

Then the heroic impulse came. He would follow the bloody trespasser. He started and crept with sleuth like precaution down the tracks, following a wee thin line of crimson that had trickled from the victim's corpse. Soon there was another pool of blood, then another line of crimson, and a

third pool. What did it mean, this bold enactment of the mandates of murderous passion! Could it be a madman or a beast! Or was it one of those snakelike demons who writhe in glee at their deed then slip noiselessly to their haunts till darkness falls again to shelter them in their bloody satiation!

The lone man crept on, stealing furtive glances here and there like Theseus in the Cretan cave of the minotaur. He came to the river. Ah, he thought, would it be for him the Lethean Stream and the farther shores the land of shadow and dreams with its ghosts of far-off things? But what was this! A hole, a hole in the ice! And beside it a blotch of blood. Twas there that the murderer hid. "Aha!" he cried, with glee and mirth, "Tis now a deed will have a worth a thousand-fold more grand than thine: dost not thou envy me in mine who giveth justice newest birth?" And saying so the lone man disrobed and dived deep into the river through the hole in the ice, like Beowulf. His fingers clutched a form. Ignorant he who opens not his eyes in a case like that! He dragged the thing to the surface. Alackaday! Twas but a dog. It seems Fosdick had killed his dog the night before and had left a little blood in dragging him to the river.

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